

July 2. By letters from Moscow we have an account of a dreadful fire in that city, which happen'd the beginning of last month, and in a few hours reduced to ashes 1200 houses.

*Extract of a letter from the Hague, dated June 1.*

"All the letters from Paris boast very much of the good situation of the king's finances, which increase every day by the continuation of the taxes, and without any extraordinary expences made by the court, except the money laid out upon the marine, which is indeed very considerable.

The fleet which the French are fitting out is a very powerful one, but we can scarcely believe that it is to be sent to the Baltic, as has been represented, but rather look upon it as intended to protect their trade. Whatever pretences are made use of to cover the real design of this fleet, several are of opinion, that the principal view of the court of France is, to fit out insensibly such a number of men of war, as may enable her to act at all times in such a manner as the circumstances of affairs may require."

We hear that the report of the French making any attempts on our settlements at or near Nova-Scotia, prevented a great many going on board the Alderney yesterday, who had intended to go and settle in that new colony.

June 6. They write from Stockholm of the 27th of last month, that the Royal fleet, consisting of 115 vessels, among which they reckon twelve ships of the line of battle, eight frigates, and six galleys, is in excellent order, and ready to put to sea at a few hours warning.

June 7. Private letters from Brest, and some other ports of France, mention, that they are building several men of war, in order to put their marine on a good footing; that they have got a great many English workmen in the yard, who have been cajoled by the French emissaries here, who promised them every thing they could wish for, at the time they were engaged; but experience has taught them how little those promises are to be depended on; and that they are not only disappointed in what they expected, but have very little hopes of returning home, when they earnestly desire.

June 11. The last letters from Carthagena advise, that fresh orders were come down from Madrid, for sending out as soon as possible, the four large frigates, together with the xebecs and other vessels, armed in that port, in order to give chase to the Barbary corsairs.

Advices from Genoa of 31st of last month, say, that several vessels were arrived there from Marseilles, and amongst them a felucca, with several passengers, who report, that they have actually 23 ships of the line and frigates in the harbour of Toulon; and that it was currently reported, the said ships would be speedily fitted out.

June 13. An order is issued for another regiment of foot, on the Irish establishment, to be sent to Nova Scotia, for which the several regiments are to cast dice on the drum head.

June 20. According to letters from Petersburgh, by the way of Hamburg, the Russian fleet was to sail from Cronstadt the 20th instant, and be in the road of Dantzick about the beginning of next month. They add, that the Russian commissary of Dantzick had already received orders to buy up provisions for the said fleet.

By letters from Stockholm of the 15th inst. we are informed that a ship is arrived there from Nerva, with advice that the Russian fleet was actually sailed for the Baltic; and that the Swedish court had thereupon issued orders for their fleet to put to sea with all possible expedition.

June 22. Two regiments of foot in Ireland are ordered to embark for Jamaica, to keep the negroes in order, some of them having lately mutinied.

June 23. They write from Brest, that M. Rouille, the French secretary of state for the marine, arrived there the 19th instant, and is to proceed from thence, to visit several other ports of France. They add, that by the vigilance and abilities of this minister, they are now masters of a powerful navy, which they can send out upon any emergency.

Letters from Dantzick advise, that the Magistrates have ordered the garrison of For-Weixelmund to be considerably reinforced, on account of the Russian fleet being expected in the road of that city.

The Alderney, Capt. Pendock Neale, having on board between 4 and 500 settlers for Nova-Scotia, lies wind bound at the Nore.

It is reported that four men of war and two sloops are ordered to be fitted out with all expedition, in order to be stationed in the Mediterranean, to have an eye upon the Barbary corsairs.

*Extract of a letter from Brussels, dated July 1.*

"The report spread some time ago, that his most Christian majesty had sent fresh orders to the marquis de Caylus, governor of Martinico, to evacuate the islands of Tobago, St. Lucia, &c. was premature. We have advice from very good hands at Rochelle, that the frigate which was to carry over those orders, is still in that port, nor does any one know when she will set sail. Hence, we are inclined to believe that this affair may be one of those articles which are to be determined at the conferences to be held by the commissaries of the two crowns, for settling their respective limits and possessions in America."

July 6. Letters from Paris advise, that on the remonstrances of the earl of Albemarle to the marquis de Puyfieux, concerning the encroachments of the French on Nova Scotia, the marquis absolutely disavowed and condemned the conduct of M. de la Jonquiere; declaring, that he had no instructions from court to give the least disturbance to the English in that settlement, and that orders should be immediately sent him to withdraw his troops, and quit his whole conduct to the harmony which at present subsists between the two nations.

Yesterday the gentlemen who conduct the fishery, received the first parcel of herrings, caught by the Pelham and Carrer's buffes, off Sheiland.

May 22. It is remark'd, that sir Samuel Penrart, sir Daniel Lambert, Baron Clark, sir Thomas Abney, Mr. Besicmore, deputy marshal to lord chief justice Lee, Mr. Cox, the under sheriff, Mr. Sharpless, clerk of the papers, councillor Baird, counsellor O'way, Deputy Hunt, Mr. Malbet, the linen draper, Mr. Laddy, the apothecary, Mr. Ware, one of the jury, and Mr. Chandler, the attorney, all deceased, were at the last sessions at the Old-Bailey, and suppos'd to have there caught some infection.

As the deaths of the above mentioned persons who were at the last sessions held at the Old-Bailey, have been attributed to the noisom stench of the prisoners, we have in confirmation of the said opinion, quoted the following, from one of Dr. Mead's books.

"In our common prisons many have what they call the *Goal Fever*, which is always attended with a degree of malignity, in proportion to the coldness and stench of the place; and it would certainly very well become the wisdom of the government, as well with regard to the health of the town, as in compassion to the prisoners, to take care, that all houses of confinement should be kept as airy and clean as is consistent with the use to which they are designed."

"The *Black Affize at Oxford*, held in the castle there, in the year 1577, will never be forgot; in which the judges, gentry, and almost all that were present, to the number of three hundred, were kill'd by a poisonous steam, thought by some to have broken forth from the earth; but by a noble and great philosopher (lord Bacon) more justly suppos'd to have been brought by the prisoners out of the goal into the court, it being observed that they alone were not injured by it."

We have the following farther particular account of the above mentioned black affize, from sir Richard Baker's chronicle. p. 353.

"At the affizes at Oxford, in the 19th year of queen Elizabeth, the court were surpriz'd with a pestilent savour, whether rising from the noisome smell of the prisoners, or from the damp of the ground is uncertain; but all that were present within 40 hours died, except women and children, and the contagion went no farther. There died Robert Bell, lord chief baron; Robert D'oylie, sir William Babington, Doyle sheriff of Oxford, Harcourt, Weyman and Fettplace, Barham the famous Lawyer, almost all the jurors, and 300 others, more or less."

June 16. Letters from Constantinople advise, that the vizir has made an express declaration to the Swedish minister, that if Sweden should be attacked by any power whatever, the grand signor would assist that court with all his forces; which the present distracted state of affairs of Persia leaves him at full liberty to do.

An envoy is lately arrived from the emperor of Morocco, to treat for the ransom of the English prisoners detained at Fez and Tetuan, and renew the treaty of friendship between his majesty and that emperor.